



## **PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6**

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006 PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Darlene Nakayama called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; a quorum was present with nine (9) members.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Traver Carroll, Darlene Nakayama, Rachel Shackelford, Joshua Stanbro, Earl Shiraki, Gregory Pentecost, Doug Wong, Owen Nakao, Gladys Hayes-Gerlich, Michael Weinstein.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carolyn Walther, Erin Sonsona.

**GUESTS:** James Nekota; Det. John Martin, Sgt. A. Tsukano, Lt. Abner DeLima, and Officer M. Hozaki (Honolulu Police Department); Simmy McMichael, Martin Okabe (Mayor's Representative); Gary Hu, Gary Takeuchi, Carol Lam, Karen Shimizu (Servco Hawaii), Jim Hayes (Environet, Inc.), Capt. Scott Lee and FF3 Simeon Pihana (Honolulu Fire Department), Ed Honda (Councilmember Kobayashi's Office staff), Sharon Agnew (Governor's Representative), Julia Allen, Joe Yasutake (Department of Parks and Recreation), Milton Hutchison (MAAC), Lynne Ellen Hollinger (Baha'i Faith Community), Representative Calvin Say, Karen Iwamoto (Palolo Community Council), Marie Richardson (Neighborhood Commission Office staff), plus 4 to 6 others not signed in.

**BOARD VACANCIES:** Chair Nakayama announced one (1) seat vacancy in Sub district 3. There were no interested candidates at this time.

#### **CITY SERVICES:**

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD)** – Det. John Martin distributed District 7's Crime Trend Statistic report for Beats 762, 763, 764, and 765. 1) The crime trend for February was down for burglary and thefts with the exception of UEMV's, which in January reported 0 and February was up by 4 in the Palolo area. 2) Safety Tip: How Can You Help – 9 Pollution Tips (handout included with the report); and be aware of your surroundings; keep your doors locked, especially if you are alone at home, and or working in your yard.

Stanbro arrived during this portion of the meeting (8 members present).

Hayes requested taking the agenda out of order to New Business, Parking of Commercial Vehicles in Residential Areas; and Update of Drug Issue with Kipona Street. There were no objections.

**Parking of Commercial Vehicles in Residential Areas** – Det. Martin reported that the lieutenant and beat officers would be handling the situation. Chair Nakayama provided a brief background - officers are aware of the situation involving four huge commercial vehicles/buses parked on Carlos Long and Palolo Avenue. Officers have talked to the owners of these vehicles and will continue to monitor the vehicles for violations.

**Update on Drug Issue with Kipona Street Residence** – Chair Nakayama stated that it's her understanding that one of the drug suspects from this residence was arrested. Det. Martin replied that it is a continuing problem and the Narco/Vice Division is keeping an eye on the matter. The situation flares every now and then when friends of the older siblings influence the younger siblings of the residence. Call 911 if there are any concerns.

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)** – FF3 Simeon Pihana reported for February: 1) 0 fires, 22 medical emergencies and 6 miscellaneous alarms. 2) Safety Tip: Brush fires cause great damage in communities and use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Be responsible and dispose of all fires properly. Even small sources of fire can cause immense destruction. Work together with your community to make it safer. Make and maintain a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing the vegetation surrounding all structures. Report and remove hazards. Communicate with each other. Formulate plans for yourself, your family and your neighborhood in case of emergencies.



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**Board of Water Supply (BWS)** – Stephanie Kimura was present earlier. A report was available and Chair Nakayama highlighted: one main break in February at 2237 Waiomao Road.

Nekota thanked Kimura for the efforts in getting the fire hydrant replaced after waiting over a month, since it went down.

Before going into the next agenda item, Chair Nakayama informed everyone of an earlier discussion with Councilmember Kobayashi's staff member, Ed Honda, about the Board's Capital Improvement Projects wish list. She recalls a list consisting of: lighting of the parking lot at Palolo District Park Gym; resurfacing of the tennis courts, and the upgrading of the gym ceiling. Honda would get back to the Chair with the status.

**Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)** – Yasutake: a) reported the tennis court nets have been taken down and the tennis court is closed. Other suggestions included: a skateboard park, a handball court and a teen center (supervised by First Life After Prison Program). Yasutake didn't favor a skateboard park, but felt that the number handball players who frequent the gym would find a handball court beneficial because other scheduled planned activities limit the gyms use; and the lack of funding poses another problem.

Comments followed: 1) Shiraki voiced a comment that individuals wanted the tennis court at Palolo District Park. 2) Responding to Wong's inquiry, Yasutake indicated there are more handball players than tennis players and skateboarders. 3) Wong said isn't it the purpose to provide a place such as a skateboard park, so kids have a place to go, as opposed to riding on the streets or having nothing to do. Yasutake expressed: many kids in Palolo don't have skateboards; the location behind the gym is out of public view; and there would a lack supervision.

Chair Nakayama said sometime back there was a discussion about a proposed skateboard park - it was turned down. However, the Board may want to consider further discussion at a future meeting.

Yasutake reported: 1) the volleyball clinics are now complete; and are now going into league play for age groups; 6 – 8 years, 9 – 11 years, and 12 – 14 years; 2) the State Ted Kimura Basketball Tournament is coming up and will be held at Kilauea Gym; 3) the Valentine's Day Dance was a successful event; and 4) the tremendous potential of the MAAC Learning Center and it's efforts. A proposal of a joint effort with Cingular Wireless and the MAAC Learning Center would be discussed on tonight's agenda.

The agenda was taken out of order to Old Business, Cingular Wireless application for CUP and Height Waiver; no objections followed.

**OLD/OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Cingular Wireless is apply for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Height Waiver at 2007 Palolo Avenue (Palolo Valley Gym)** – At the last meeting, Shackelford was asked to research concerns expressed by the Board and community members. An online research was completed prior to a meeting with Keoni Fox, a technical person from Cingular, Dahlia Asuega (Palolo Homes), Toni Robinson (DPR), and Milton Hutchison (MAAC). Basically, her assessment was that it was fairly safe. The antennas would be located high enough, and that these companies would need to comply with regulations and guideline standards of such agencies (Federal Communication Commission (FCC), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), etc.).

One piece of information was shared regarding where the EMF (electro magnetic field) radiation goes and what is a safe distance. For this particular location, their exclusion distance was 29 feet it would be 31 feet in the air. A walk thru followed and the antennas seemed it would fit in and be barely visible. Finally, a concern was what is Palolo getting out of this? A joint relationship between the City and Cingular would be set up to pay for the use. What was preferred was perhaps some Capital Improvements type projects upfront reducing Cingular's payment until that amount is paid off. This type of relationship, in certain respects is allowed. An example of what's not allowed is paying a monthly salary to someone particular.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

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1. A presentation was made by Sprint. Fox did not know why other carriers have not come into the valley, which is not to say that they won't in the future; but Cingular is requesting specifically to address concerns in the Waiomao area of Palolo.
2. Shiraki said other carriers don't come into this area because of the problems in other areas where people complained and the antennas were removed.

The research done showed that health risk levels at a minimum. Yasutake felt it would be a shame to lose out on possible improvements in exchange for the use of the facility. Carroll reiterated this effort is in response to a request for expanded communication needs to the back of the valley (Waiomao).

3. Stanbro commented that since the Board asked Shackelford to research the safety concern, that out of respect for whom ever volunteered to do the research, that the Board should accept their findings.
4. Shackelford would be happy to share the information she gathered online. Fox also handed her more information, some of which was exactly of what she gathered.
5. Fox said his location options were limited. One location involved the school and required putting up a pole; another was the Pacific Islanders United Methodist Church, but space there was limited.

Wong did his own research and found that locating multiply antennas could possibly exceed the standard. Shackelford said the group discussed the issue and it's realistic and something to think about. Eventually other companies may want to use this location, so keeping well below any safety specifications is the key.

MAAC Learning Center - Hutchinson shared his support for the installation. Since there can be no exchange of money, his feeling was the only way this valley is going to benefit is for example, by improving the learning centers (wireless) capabilities, etc., which is more important to give back to the kids of Palolo Valley.

Mayor's representative, Martin Okabe, wanted to share the City's Ordinance 05-020, relating to telecommunications facilities on City property. Adopted by Council on June 6, 2005, the purpose addresses the use of certain city property for locating telecommunications facilities. It establishes a procedure, sets monthly payment and facilitates the co-location of certain wireless communications services facilities on city property.

**Stanbro moved, Carroll seconded to support the request of Cingular Wireless for a Conditional Use Permit and Height Waiver at 2007 Palolo Avenue on the condition that the community benefit package is included.** Discussion followed: Shiraki expressed discomfort with being close to where kids would be playing. Shackelford said there are different kinds of radiation and gave an analogy of how it works. **The motion carried 9-0-1. Abstain:** Shiraki.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Mayor's Report** – Martin Okabe: 1) elaborated on statements made under the Mayor's report of the February 8 Board meeting regarding: a) the recycling programs at the schools is a City run program, and not a State program, as reported. b) Hollinger's statement under Baha'i Center - should reflect that the City's refuse trucks are not allowed access on privately owned roads/lanes and unfortunately, residents would need to continue bringing their trash down to the public street for pickup. 2) Recycling pamphlets, a tote bag and shoelaces made out plastic bottles, and pencils made out of paper were available for review. 3) Other recycling highlights include: a) expansion of the Community Recycling Bin Program from 80 to 120 sites; b) Automated green waste pickup is in place in the Mililani, Waimanalo, and Kaneohe areas. c) Regularly scheduled bulky item pickup expanded to the Waianae, Mililani and Kapaa areas; and eventually to the Pearl City area; and d) this Administration feels that H-Power is a form recycling - what we burn municipally is turned into electrical energy.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Shiraki questioned where are the people to put their trash? Some agreed that it's going to be hard to get people to refrain from dumping in front of the Baha'i Faith Center. Unfortunately, if you live on a private road, you just don't have the benefits of public trash service in front of your house.

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2. A suggestion was designating a spot to place their trash. Chair Nakayama would like to defer this topic at this time, and refer this issue to Okabe and Hollinger to continue dialogue and come up with an agreement.
3. Weinstein thanked Okabe for the extra street light on the corner of Keanu Street and Sierra Drive. The streetlights were install three weeks ago, but there's no light until the HECO powers up the pole.
4. Shiraki asked what would it take to get the delayed left turn traffic signal light on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Waialae Avenue. Shiraki was called out of order by the Chair; the issue was addressed and answered at a previous meeting and is in consideration for FY 2009 Budget. Shiraki is only hoping to address the concerns at that intersection.

**Councilmember Ann Kobayashi** – Ed Honda was present earlier; and a report was available.

**Representative Calvin Say** – Not present at this time.

**Senator Les Ihara** – Chair Nakayama apologized on behalf of Senator Ihara.

**Governor's Report** – Sharon Agnew distributed the Governor's report and highlighted on: 1) the criminal history bill - allowing agencies who provide services for children to do background checks. 2) The Lingle-Aiona Administration 2006 Initiatives is available on the State's website: [www.hawaii.gov](http://www.hawaii.gov).

**NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS:**

**Parking of Commercial Vehicles in Residential Areas** – Discussed earlier under HPD.

**Celebrate Kaimuki – March 25, 2006** – Chair Nakayama announced: a) Chaminade 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Saturday, March 25; trolley shuttle from Chaminade to Liliuokani School will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. b) Palolo Lions Club will be having a fundraiser at Aliiolani School (Administration, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue section); barbeque chicken, sushi, and banana bread sale from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on March 25.

**OLD/OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Residents' concern regarding conversion of the Toyota Dealership on Waialae Avenue into a D. C. Vehicle Service Center** – Adjacent neighbor, Simmy McMichael, expressed concerns of Toyota's intention to renovate from a sales dealership to an automotive service facility. Her issues/concerns included: environmental health issues, Toyota's lack of consideration and notification of surrounding neighbors, traffic impacts, lack of onsite employee parking, etc. She is asking the Board to send a letter to the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), requesting no permit approval until all her issues are resolved to satisfaction.

The Palolo Neighborhood Board, at its February 8 meeting, made a motion encouraging Toyota to have an open participation with the neighbors and the schools. In doing so, Toyota has contacted, either by telephone or letter, requesting the opportunity to discuss the project. Those included: Mr. Clifford Kumamoto (Animal Clinic); Mr. Len Miyamoto, Principal (Aliiolani School); Father Guerrero (Saint Patrick's Church), Sister Rose Miriam Schillinger, Principal (Saint Patrick's School), and Ms. Betty White, Principal (Sacred Hearts Academy).

Carol Lam introduced representatives of Toyota - Gary Takeuchi, Karen Shimizu, Gary Hu (Operations Director), and Consultant Jim Hayes with Environet, Inc. Based on the current zoning and the type of business conducted, Consultant Hayes stated that an EA (Environmental Assessment) or EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) is not required. This type of maintenance operation, chemicals used and wastes generated are benign in nature. No hazardous waste will be generated and materials used are standard and generally not flammable and less toxic than what you would find at a gas station, which would pose a larger concern due to the gasoline vapors.

Gary Hu and Gary Takeuchi responded to resident concern's: 1) Types of repairs - servicing maintenance and light duty repairs, not relating to heavy engine or transmission types of repairs. 2) Solvents concerns – benign in nature. Toyota works proactively with the community and employee's to be certain that all safety regulations are followed. 3) Traffic Impacts – a traffic survey was required by the Department of Transportation Services (DTS); a draft form

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was completed by Rowell Phillip & Associates and submitted for review and comment to DTS (no word yet on their findings). 4) Customer vehicles - will be parked onsite. 5) Employee parking – depending on location, possible accommodations. However, Kaimuki location, parking is currently offsite. 6) Service maintenance is by appointment only. 7) Employee work hours - are staggered from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. 8) Property lot size - is 27,000 square feet - existing building will be demolished and the new building will be sited on the north side of the property; the building will be one-story with small mezzanine for parts storage. 9) The north face of the property is the backside of the building; the rollup door is facing the Waiialae Avenue side. The north side property line will be bordered by hedges; and are restricted by a six-foot high wall. 10) Service Facility - servicing the East-Honolulu area; other services facilities are location on: South Street, the Airport, Waipahu, and Kaneohe; and are in the process of upgrading service bay counts at various locations.

Other concerns included: 1) Parking is an issue with every business in every community, what Toyota is trying to do is minimize the impact. McMichael suggested down sizing the business and accommodating employee parking onsite. 2) Chair Nakayama asked whether efforts were made toward working out a solution. As it seemed, McMichael felt that her concerns were not being addressed; whereas Toyota, indicated that they've tried to coordinate the meeting, however, McMichael plainly refused. 3) Hu said there are many things that Toyota can to address vehicle drop offs such shuttle pickups. 4) McMichael wanted the Board to request that DPP not issue any permit until her issues are addressed. Nekota said the Board is only an advisory and cautioned against overstepping its boundaries.

**Update on Drug Issue with Kipona Street Residence** – Brought up earlier under HPD.

**Baha'i Center's Citation for Trash Dumped** – Chair Nakayama has asked Okabe to dialogue with Hollinger at the back of the cafeteria about options or solutions and report back next month. Okabe and Hollinger acknowledged the request.

**9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Variance** – Deferred.

**RESIDENT'S ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** None.

**FUTURE PRESENTATIONS:** Chair Nakayama announced upcoming Board presentations: a) pedestrian and vehicular law changes by HPD; b) renovation of Palolo Housing, federal side by Dahlia Asuega; c) update on the Dae Won Sa Korean Temple (Chair is still trying to make contact).

**CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Olelo Broadcast Slots:** Aired on Channel 54 on the first and third Thursday of every month at 9p.m. For schedule and information, call 834-0007, ext. 133.

**Bulky Trash Pick-Up:** Take out by the morning of March 15, 2006 (third Wednesday of every month).

**Other:**

- Chair Nakayama announced her intention to step down as the Chair in June 2006. She entertained the opportunity and experience to other Board members. Over the next few months, Nakayama will be asking other Board members to preside over the meeting. Shackelford would take part in chairing next month's meeting.
- The next Sunshine Law Training session is on Thursday, March 16, 2006 from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. at the Mission Memorial Auditorium. Board members, who have yet to attend a session, must do so.
- Nekota reminded Board members of their role as an advisory board and cautioned against involvement into private issues that maybe outside the Board's scope; in particular, the issue with the Toyota dealership conversion into an automotive service center.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2006:** Hayes moved, Pentecost seconded to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2006, as circulated. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2006:** Weinstein highlighted that the Board is within its budget spending. 1) Operating Account expenses were \$130.45; leaving a closing balance of \$878.38. 2) Publicity Account expenses were \$260.00, leaving a closing balance to-date of \$482.00. 3) Refreshment Account balance reflects no current expense, leaving the closing balance to-date of \$120.00. There were no objections to the Treasurer's Report.

**Representative Calvin Say** – Representative Say distributed his report.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Stanbro moved, Hayes seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Submitted by

Marie Richardson  
Neighborhood Assistant